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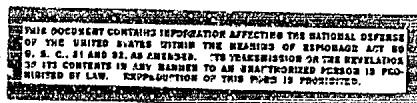
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INCREASED IRRIGATION IN NORTH CHINA

During the spring of 1952, peasants of North China dug 184,963 irrigation wells and opened 3,643 irrigation canals. The goals for irrigation areas in North China in 1952 have been raised from 8 million to 20 million mou (one mou equals one-sixth acre). In the Shih-chia-chuang area, the authorities have put on an active campaign, with traveling salesmen going among the villages to secure speedy orders for irrigation pumps.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS BEING PUSHED ALL OVER NORTH CHINA -- Pao-ting, Hoeph Jih-pao, 6 May 52

The estimates for the increase of irrigated areas in North China during 1952 have now been raised from 8 million to 20 million mou in view of the interest shown by people and administrators throughout the region. During the spring of this year, 3,643 irrigation canals have been opened and 184,963 wells dug. During March alone the irrigated area in Shansi Province increased by 440 million mou. In the Yun-ch'eng area, the irrigating capacity of a well that could irrigate 3 mou per day using a hand windlass has been increased to 10 mou per day since the farmers banded together and installed a horsepower bucket pump. If the well were operated on a round-the-clock schedule it could irrigate 20 mou per day.

In the Hsin-hsiang Special Administrative District of Pingyuan Province, peasants found 138 springs capable of irrigating 75,000 mou. In Hsing-ho Hsien in Suiyuan Province, peasants have recently dug 257 small irrigation canals. In one village area in Lai-shui Hsien, Hoeph, nine well-digging mutual aid teams dug 12 wells in one day. Organization is increasing well-digging capacity.

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Everywhere in North China attention is being paid to the economical use of irrigation water by shallow irrigation and other methods.

IRRIGATION PROGRESS IN SHIH-CHIA-CHUANG AREA -- Pao-ting, Hopeh Jih-pao, 4 May 52

A member of the Hopeh Water Conservancy Promotion Society reports that up to 6 April 1952 funds for purchase of 7,470 well pumps, to be powered by horses, had been loaned to farmers (62 percent of the year's goal), 3,792 old pumps repaired, and 1,529 dug or driven wells completed in the Shih-chia-chuang Special Administrative District. There are 3,444 wells in process of digging and plans are completed for 2,566 more to be started. Repairs have been completed on 1,648 wells and are going on on 404 others, with plans laid for repair of 4,387 more.

To insure proper promotion and implementation of the program of getting pumps into the hands of the people quickly, getting crews organized for repairing existing pumps, and promoting the smooth operation of the well-digging program, the Shih-chia-chuang Special Administrative District and hsien authorities divided the territory up into subdistricts and appointed responsible party and government leaders to provide for the completion of the program in each sub-district. To avoid protracted storage of pumping equipment in the hsien depots while waiting for orders from individual farmers or mutual aid teams, representatives have been sent into the villages to canvass the farmers and secure their orders in large groups. These orders are then passed on at once to the suppliers and the supplies are expected to flow rapidly out to the ch'u areas, where the purchasers will be notified to come and pick up their equipment.

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